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(b) what the result of the correspondence between this Government and the Government of India regarding this subject is ; and

(c) whether the correspondence will be placed on the table?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer already given to question No. 163.

(*c*) The Government of India's correspondence cannot be placed on the table.

Factories

Prosecutions and fines imposed on factory proprietors every year.

*714 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar: Will the hon the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government will be pleased to give the annual number of prosecutions and the total amount of fines imposed on factory proprietors every year, for the three years ending with 31st March 1927 ;

(*b*) whether the Government have received complaints that the factory inspectors are systematically teasing small rice-mill owners for trivial omissions such as failure to whitewash walls or to paint door frames, at very short intervals ;

(*c*) whether they are aware that many of these so-called factories are petty concerns serving a limited area and often working only during harvest-seasons of paddy or groundnuts ;

(*d*) whether Government will be pleased to investigate the matter and ascertain whether prosecutions under the Factories Act are ordered only for sufficient causes ; and

(*e*) whether Government have already issued or are contemplating to issue any instructions directing the factory inspectors not to charge small mill-owners for really trivial and petty omissions or lapses on their part?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to Appendix IV in the annual provincial factory reports for 1924 and 1926 and Appendix III in the report for 1925, which have been placed on the Editors' Table. The reports are for calendar years only.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The Government are aware that there are a number of seasonal factories.

(*d*) & (*e*) The Government have no reason to think that prosecutions are launched for insufficient causes or on frivolous grounds.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" With reference to the answers to clauses (*d*) and (*e*), may I ask the hon. the Home Member whether prosecutions are launched for petty so-called offences as not painting door frames and not whitewashing the walls?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" The Government are not aware of the fact. If the hon. Member will bring to my notice any specific instances, I will look into them."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Will the hon. the Home Member get the information whether there have been prosecutions for such petty offences?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Yes."